

CLAIMS

1. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire within a prescribed area that is remote from the location of said operator, said system comprising:
 - a means for capturing, at a prescribed frequency, video images of said remote area,
 - a means for transmitting said captured images to the location of said operator,
 - a means, adapted to utilize said captured images, for detecting the occurrence of a fire within said remote area,
 - a means, located at said remote location, for discharging a fire suppressant over said prescribed area, and
 - a means, located at the location of said operator and utilizing said transmitted, captured images, for allowing said operator to control the operation of said remote means for discharging said fire suppressant.
2. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a means, responsive to the detection of the occurrence of a fire in said remote area, for informing said operator of said fire detection,
3. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a means, at the location of said operator, for displaying said transmitted, captured images,
 - wherein said image display means is connected to said fire suppressant discharging means and is adapted to be utilized by said operator in controlling said fire suppressant discharging means.
4. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire as recited in claim 2, further comprising:
 - a means, at the location of said operator, for displaying said transmitted, captured images,

1 wherein said image display means is connected to said fire suppressant
2 discharging means and is adapted to be utilized by said operator in controlling said
3 fire suppressant discharging means.

4 5. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire as recited in claim 1, wherein said
5 fire detection means is adapted to provide image analysis of said captured images.

6 6. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire as recited in claim 2, wherein said
7 fire detection means is adapted to provide image analysis of said captured images.

8 7. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire as recited in claim 3, wherein said
9 fire detection means is adapted to provide image analysis of said captured images.

10 8. An operator-directed system for suppressing fire as recited in claim 4, wherein said
11 fire detection means is adapted to provide image analysis of said captured images.

12 9. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire within a prescribed area that is
13 remote from the location of said operator, said method comprising the steps of:

14 capturing, at a prescribed frequency, video images of said remote area,
15 transmitting said captured images to the location of said operator,
16 utilizing said captured images to detect the occurrence of a fire within said
17 remote area,

18 discharging, upon the detection of the occurrence of a fire in said remote area,
19 a fire suppressant over said prescribed area,

20 wherein said operator utilizes said transmitted, captured images to control the
21 discharging of said fire suppressant.

22 10. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire as recited in Claim 9, further
23 comprising the step of initiating an alarm, responsive to the detection of the
24 occurrence of a fire in said remote area, to inform said operator of said fire detection.

25 11. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire as recited in Claim 9, further
26 comprising the steps of:

27 displaying, at the location of said operator, said transmitted, captured images,
28 and

29 utilizing said displayed images to enable said operator to control the
30 discharging of said fire suppressant.

- 1 12. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire as recited in Claim 10, further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 displaying, at the location of said operator, said transmitted, captured images,
4 and
5 utilizing said displayed images to enable said operator to control the
6 discharging of said fire suppressant.
- 7 13. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire as recited in Claim 9, wherein
8 said fire detection step utilizes image analysis of said captured images.
- 9 14. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire as recited in Claim 10, wherein
10 said fire detection step utilizes image analysis of said captured images.
- 11 15. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire as recited in Claim 11, wherein
12 said fire detection step utilizes image analysis of said captured images.
- 13 16. An operator-directed method for suppressing fire as recited in Claim 12, wherein
14 said fire detection step utilizes image analysis of said captured images.

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